LEAGUES OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA 1155 Emory Street San Jose, Calif. 95125

November 17, 1967

Mr. Melvin B. Lane, Chairman San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission Room 320, 507 Polk Street San Francisco, Calif. 94102

The Leagues of Women Voters of the Bay Area, representing some 4400 members in our twenty-two local Leagues around the Bay, look forward to the establishment of sound regional government for the nine Bay Area counties by the end of the 1969 legislative session. We believe that city and county governments should retain responsibility for local affairs. We also believe that a democratic and workable regional government to meet clearly regional needs should replace the present unplanned, uncoordinate and/or single-purpose methods of dealing with such needs.

We warmly commend the BCDC report, "Government: Regional Organization for Bay Conservation and Development," as an important step toward effective discussion for the framework needed to preserve San Francisco Bay and to serve other regional needs. Concerning the possible planning conclusions based on this report, we urge your consideration of the following:

- 1) The LMVBA supports direct election of representatives. However, we believe that a combination of directly elected representatives and representatives appointed by cities and counties may be useful to insure communication between regional and local levels.
- 2) The regional government must be given powers and financing commensurate with its responsibilities. Full consideration should be given to all sources of revenue.
- 3) We believe in a continued moratorium on Bay-fill to insure the benefits of the plan for the Bay as developed by BCDC. We feel strongly that there should be no time lag between the end of the present BCDC and the start of the new agency. An interval between jurisdictions would inevitably result in unplanned filling of the Bay. The Legislature should be asked to continue BCDC until the appropriate agency is empowered to carry on BCDC's protection of San Francisco Bay.

Throughout the Bay Area, there is growing public recognition of the need for regional decision-making in the public interest and for realistic means to implement such decisions. BCDC recommendations on regional organization should strengthen and support the effort to establish a governmental structure which will be truly res-

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Very truly yours,

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